

Supply

Production

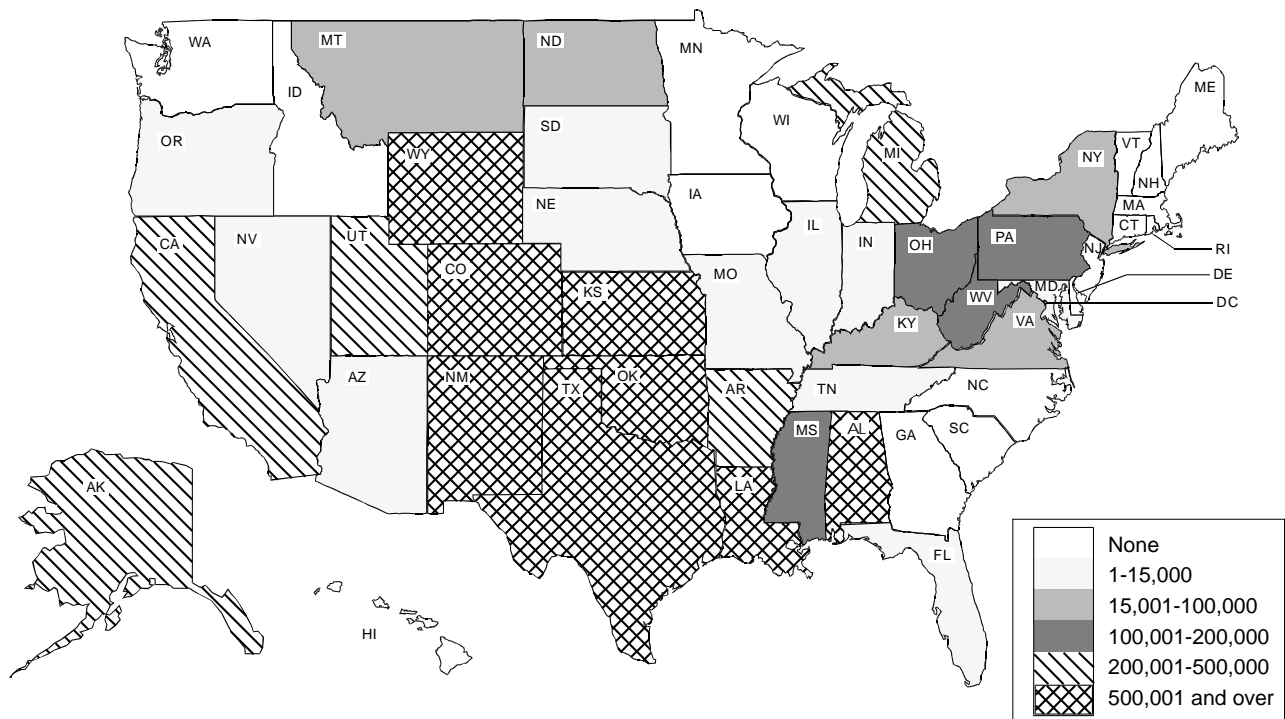
Gross withdrawals of natural gas reached 24.1 trillion cubic feet in 1996, 0.3 trillion cubic feet more than in 1995. Total marketed production of natural gas also increased. The 1996 level was 19.8 trillion cubic feet, 1 percent higher than one year ago. Marketed production is derived by subtracting quantities used for repressuring, vented and flared, and the removal of nonhydrocarbons from total gross withdrawals of natural gas. Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico remained as the leading producers of natural gas. During the past three years, these four States have supplied approximately three-quarters of domestic production, and this trend continued in 1996 as they produced 15 trillion cubic feet, 76 percent of marketed natural gas production. Texas led with 6.4 trillion cubic feet, followed by Louisiana with 5.2, Oklahoma with 1.7 trillion cubic feet, and New Mexico with 1.6 trillion cubic feet. The twenty-nine

remaining gas-producing States produced 4.8 trillion cubic feet.

A number of supply sources contributed to the greater gas production in 1996. Production from the entire Gulf of Mexico increased 3.2 percent over 1995 volumes. The Gulf of Mexico increase of 323 billion cubic feet together with notable increases in Arkansas and Colorado more than offset declines in onshore Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. The total rise in U.S. marketed production was 244 billion cubic feet.

The trend for increasing gas production from the offshore Gulf of Mexico is expected to continue during the next few years in light of the list of projects under development or in planning. The Mensa project in 5,400 feet of water began production in 1997. This project is quite significant because it has the deep water record for production. These technical

Figure 4. Marketed Production of Natural Gas in the United States, 1996
(Million Cubic Feet)



Sources: Illinois, New York, and West Virginia: Energy Information Administration (EIA), *U.S. Crude Oil, Natural Gas, and Natural Gas Liquids Reserves, Annual Reports*, DOE/EIA-0216; and EIA computations. All other data: Form EIA-895, "Monthly Quantity and Value of Natural Gas Report" and the United States Minerals Management Service.